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### ARTZ 131A.01: Ceramics for Non-Majors

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**CERAMICS FOR NON MAJORS!      3 credits      Fall 2021      Professor Drake Gerber**

**Course Description:** Offered autumn and spring. A general introduction to ceramics for non-art majors. Learn a variety of techniques working with clay and glazes. No Art experience required. Not for B.A, B.F.A majors or art minors.

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with clay as an art-making material, and to introduce the fundamental techniques in the ceramic process. We will cover various methods of building with clay, including solid construction, coiling, slab building, carving and press molds. We will investigate surface decoration using oxide washes, glazes and stains. We will be firing mostly in the electric kiln.

This is a studio based course, the vast majority of your work will be done in the ceramics studio. Needed techniques will be demonstrated in class and through online presentations. In this course we will learn through making! The primary concepts in this course are related to your personal narrative and exploring your ideas through making art.

**Materials.** Each student has a basic ceramics tool kit, tub to keep their work in, a shelf and locker to share. You will need a towel for this course!! Additional tools can be purchased at the book store or online at the Archie Bray Foundation but are not required. The lab fee for this course covers all the tools, clay, glaze and firing you will do in this class.

**Class Projects:**

- Project 1 - "Chicken Chicken" - Solid Construction
- Project 2 - "Dream Heads" - Slab Coil Construction
- Project 3 - "What a dish" - Slab Construction and Majolica Glaze
- Project 4 - "Transformation and Metamorphosis" – Solid Construction or Slab Construction

**Grading:** Since this is a studio based class, attendance is a must. Three unexcused absences is a drop of one letter grade. If you are late, you will miss the demonstrations in class, so please do not be late. You will be graded against yourself and your own progress in this course. Everyone comes to this class with different skills, and it's what you do with your ideas that I am interested in. IF and this is a big IF you are missing class, you must email me that you are missing class – otherwise this will count as an unexcused absence. If you miss class or a demonstration, please ask THREE, yes, 3 other students what you missed, before asking me! Thanks! There is extra credit for this class, and you can redo projects if you wish. The class can be taken for a grade only, CR/NCR in not an option.

Each student will take TWO cleaning shifts over the semester. The sig- up sheets are across from the sink. These count as class attendance. If you are going to miss your clean up shift, you must find a replacement. If you cannot attend a Sunday or Thursday night clean-up shift, please request an alternative.

**Workload:** The workload for this class is reasonable, and if you are in class and focused you can get much of your assignments during class. There will be occasions when you will have to come outside of class. "In addition to regularly scheduled meeting times, expect three hours of work outside of scheduled class per week for completion of projects and assignments. Studio technicians and work-study students will be available to provide assistance."

**Studio etiquette/policies:** More than 140 students are working in this studio over the semester, and there is enough space and time for everyone. A few common activities help the studio run smoothly:

- Clean up your work table, and out away your tub and clay when you are finished for the day
- If you are wearing buds, keep one ear open, or the volume low enough that you can hear your peers and teacher.
- If you see uncovered clay, or the slurry bucket overflowing, take care of it!!
- Kindly greet your peers and other members of the ceramics community
- Please don't talk on the cell phone during class or when you are working outside of class, its sooo annoying!
- Please be safe in the studio and be thoughtful of your peers, please wear a mask and be conscious of COVID issues
- If you are sick, please stay home – do not share!!

- Do not raise dust. Use sponges and scrapers rather than brooms. Turn on overhead fans when necessary.
- Do not waste clay and glaze materials.
- Never mess with anyone else's property or Art Work!
- Be aware of hot kilns! NEVER open a kiln unless you are sure it is cool. Use gloves when handling hot materials.
- Materials Hazard Book located in gray binder, attached to the glaze area.
- No unattended children or animals in the classroom
- No bare feet, try to wear closed toed shoes

**Safety Issues in the Ceramics Studio:** for the most part, ceramics is a very safe and user friendly studio. However, please keep in mind that the kilns could be hot, give them a wide berth, no gashing wounds when using glaze materials, the metal rib in your tool kit is very sharp and NEVER EVER raise dust in the studio, only use a sponge or wash cloth when cleaning your table – NEVER a dust broom.

**Class Communication:** *All projects, time line and deadlines will be on our Moodle page.* I will email you through your university email only and expect that you check your email on a regular basis – this is your responsibility!!!! If you need help in class, please put your name on the board and I will find you as soon as possible. If you have a question or concern, please communicate, please do not wait until the end of the semester! Please take your work home and clean out your locker by the first day of exam week, all work left behind will be thrown out.....

**Please join SVMA social media to stay informed about events and happenings in our school.**

- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/umt\\_svma/](https://www.instagram.com/umt_svma/)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UMTsvma>

### School Statements

- COVID-19 policy: "The University of Montana requires masks for every course being held in a classroom, lab, or studio until otherwise informed."
  - Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
  - If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
  - If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. (Add specific information about how you, as the instructor, will continue providing course materials to students in quarantine or isolation.)
  - (If instructors are comfortable sharing or including this) UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
  - Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
  - Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
  - Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.
- Land Acknowledgement: he Séliš-Qłispé Cultural Committee created the language, *"The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come."*
- Inclusion Policies:  
The University of Montana values leadership, engagement, diversity, and sustainability, because our institution is committed to respect, welcome, encourage, and celebrate the differences among us. As members of the University of Montana community, we aspire to:
  - Respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
  - Practice honesty, trustworthiness, and academic integrity.
  - Promote justice, learning, individual success, and service.
  - Act as good stewards of institutional resources.
  - Respect the natural environment.

The College of the Arts and Media at the University of Montana, has chosen to actively pursue equity and access for all persons. In this charge we will be researching, planning, and implementing ways in which our culture can be more accessible, inclusive, equitable, sustainable. It is not enough to be anti-bias in principle without being equitable in action. We will implement these actions organized by a group of students, faculty, and staff across the entire College in an ongoing way.

### Student Support Resources

- Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code: “This Code of Conduct embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, and duties associated with citizenship as a student in our community at the University of Montana. This Code exists to protect the interests of the community and dignity of its members, and to challenge those behaviors which are not in accordance with our policies”. The Code is available for review online at <https://staging.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct-2021-pdf>
- Accommodations: “Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the DSS office. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.”
- The Writing and Public Speaking Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students at all levels and at any time in the writing process. Visit now. Visit often. We’re ready when you are. [www.umt.edu/writingcenter](http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter).
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy: The University of Montana is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, visit <https://www.umt.edu/diversity/resources/mental-health.php>
- “Art scholarship and art practice along with teaching and learning involve a critical exploration of ideas, theories, art-making practices, and art movements that encompass such things as the human body, sexuality, race, gender, religions, and cultures. This course can touch upon any of the above categories with an expectation that students will actively participate in all course assignments, discussions, and tests. Given this information, it is the student’s obligation to determine that the requirements conflict with his or her core beliefs. If the student determines that there is a conflict with his or her beliefs, one of the following actions needs to be taken: 1) drop the class before the last day to drop a course without penalty; 2) meet with the instructor within the first week of classes to determine if an accommodation can be made. (Note, faculty, are not required to grant content accommodations.)”